GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2249
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
DEGRADATION OF LAND IN CHAMBAL VALLEY
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether degradation of land into ravines in Chambal Valley has been increasing for the last few years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plan to check the degradation of land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) No, Sir. As per State of Forest Report 1999, published by Forest Survey of India, forest cover has increased by 175 sq.km in the period 1996-98 in the districts of Bhind, Morena, Agra and Etawah containing ravines of Chambal Valley.

(b) & (c) The important steps undertaken by the Government to prevent deforestation in the country are:

i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrationsfrom their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

iii) Guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.

v) A network of protected areas has been established.

vi) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through increased investments i n conservation and development of forest resources.